

**YOUR  
HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

A Guide

to the  
Rhode Island  
Department of Health

*Lincoln Almond  
Governor  
Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH  
Director of Health*

*~~ Safe and Healthy Lives in  
Safe and Healthy Communities ~~*

**[www.healthri.org](http://www.healthri.org)**

## Hotline Directory

After Hours Emergency . . . . . 1-401-272-5952  
Family Health Information Line . . . . . 1-800-942-7434  
Hearing/Speech Impaired (TTY). . . . . 711  
Home Health Hotline . . . . . 1-401-222-7770  
Lead Hotline . . . . . 1-800-942-7434  
Rabies Hotline . . . . . 1-401-222-2793

## Topical Index & Telephone Numbers

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Asbestos Control Program . . . . .	401-222-3601
Bathing Areas . . . . .	401-222-2750
Birth Certificates . . . . .	401-222-2812
Certificate of Need . . . . .	401-222-2788
Children's Services . . . . .	401-222-2312
Public Health Affairs . . . . .	401-222-2231
Data/Health Statistics . . . . .	401-222-2550
Death Certificates . . . . .	401-222-2812
Death Investigations . . . . .	401-222-2948
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Handicapped Children's Services . . . . .	401-222-2312
Health Library . . . . .	401-222-2068
Healthy Kids! Healthy Schools! . . . . .	401-222-3442
Hearing/Speech Impaired (TTY) . . . . .	1-800-745-5555
Infectious Disease . . . . .	401-222-2577
SafeKids . . . . .	401-222-4420
Laboratory . . . . .	401-222-5600
Lead Programs (environmental issues) . . . . .	401-222-1417
(children's issues) . . . . .	401-222-2312
Living Wills . . . . .	401-222-6015
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Medical Examiner's Office . . . . .	401-222-5500
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Minority Health . . . . .	401-222-2901
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Radon . . . . .	401-222-2438
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Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic . . . . .	401-456-4302
Tobacco Control & Cessation . . . . .	401-222-3293
Water (drinking, bottled, pools) . . . . .	401-222-6867
Women's Cancer Screening . . . . .	401-222-3442
Worksite Health . . . . .	401-222-5112
Worksite Safety & Health Issues . . . . .	401-222-2438

## Message from the Director

In 1993, the Rhode Island Department Of Health (HEALTH) adopted 25 Health Objectives for Rhode Island in conjunction with a broadly representative task force of stakeholders. In 1996, HEALTH conducted a "Mid-Course Review" to evaluate progress. As a follow-up to the Mid-Course Review and in preparation for establishing Health Objectives for the year 2010, in 2000 HEALTH re-reviewed of the original 25 Health Objectives. This review is entitled: **Healthy Rhode Islanders 2000 Progress Review**. It provides us with some encouragement and also some serious concerns.

On the positive side, the 2000 Progress Review reveals that the Health Objectives in the following areas were achieved or exceeded: children's blood lead levels, drinking water quality, food borne pathogens, HIV prevalence, limitations of activity. Substantial improvement occurred in: suicide & suicide attempts, homicides, work-related injuries, environmental tobacco smoke, oral health, birth outcomes, breast & cervical cancer screening and immunizations.

In terms of serious concerns, only limited improvement occurred in: tobacco use, unintended pregnancies, school health education and unintentional injuries. Worse, the following Health Objectives moved in a negative direction: physical activity, nutrition, and alcohol & drug related problems.

It is clear that from a public health perspective we have lots of work to do. The two leading causes of death in our population are heart disease and cancer. The major risk factors include: tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and unhealthy diets. Moreover, the leading cause of death for young adults is injuries; often related to alcohol and drug abuse. These are all areas showing little or no progress according to the statistical 2000 Progress Review. Thus, we need to recommit and redouble our efforts.

Public health is really a community-wide effort. Everyone has a stake. Every organization must ask what it can do to help achieve critical public health objectives. It is our desire to work with a wide variety of school, health, business, labor, faith, mass media, government and community organizations to protect and promote the health of the public. Please visit our website to learn more about us: **healthri.org**. Please let us hear from you. What can you do to make a positive difference for public health in Rhode Island?

Patricia A. Nolan, MD, MPH

### Mission

The primary mission of the Rhode Island Department of Health is to prevent disease and to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island.

### Vision

All people in Rhode Island will have the opportunity to live a safe and healthy life in a safe and healthy community.

### History

The State of Rhode Island has a long history of leadership and excellence in the field of public health. In 1854, Dr. Edwin Snow pioneered efforts to document and analyze a wave of cholera which attacked the citizens of Providence. Tracking the disease among his own patients, he devoted himself to tracing its source and preventing its recurrence.

Snow became the first Superintendent in 1856 when Providence established a permanent city health department. Twenty-two years later, a State Board of Health was formed with three mandates: preventing the spread of disease, collecting vital statistics, and implementing a sanitation program.

In 1883, Dr. Charles Value Chapin became Providence's Superintendent of Health. Dr. Chapin continued Dr. Snow's efforts, improving sanitation, advocating city sewer construction, establishing quarantine regulations, and identifying the source of a cholera outbreak in 1888.

Dr. Chapin instituted mandatory reporting of contagious disease cases such as scarlet fever and diphtheria. He was a leader in discouraging fumigation of houses as a disease prevention measure and established the nation's first contagious disease hospital, the Providence City Hospital, in 1910.

Today, the Rhode Island Department of Health is a diverse and interactive state agency with broad-ranging public health responsibilities. While communicable disease control, vital records, environmental health and other functions carry on the traditions established in Dr. Snow's era, newer and equally important functions of today's Health Department include minority health, chronic disease prevention, health promotion, injury control, public informational and many others.

In this decade following the Year 2000, the Health Department reemphasizes its commitment to health promotion and disease prevention: keeping Rhode Islanders healthy and active from birth through old age. **Your Health Department** is an introduction to the many programs and services working to serve you and your family in today's Department of Health.

## **Office of the Director 401 222-2231**

### **Health Information and Communication**

#### **Center for Public Health Information and Communication**

Supports divisions and programs by integrating health communication into prevention programs. Creates opportunities for advancing Health Department messages through print and electronic media. Acts as liaison to local media representatives. Develops public information materials for the Internet. Coordinates internal communication tools.

Cannon Building, Room 103, 401-222-5086/5087

#### **Health Library**

Provides a professional public health reference library and research resource for Department of Health staff, health professionals, students, and the general public. Manages and provides website access to public health information.

Cannon Building, Room 103, 401-222-2068  
(hours are from 8:30 - 4:00 - but telephone ahead first)

#### **Health Statistics**

Uses health data to identify health problems among the state's population and subgroups and to assist health programs in planning and evaluation. Collects and disseminates information about health status, health care utilization, health insurance coverage, and related topics. Conducts the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, the Health Interview Survey, and other regular statewide health surveys. Administers the statewide hospital discharge data system.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2550

#### **Performance Measurement and Reporting**

Collects, analyzes and publicly reports data reflecting the performance of and health care quality provided at licensed health facilities (e.g. patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes) and certified health plans (finance, utilization review, consumer satisfaction, preventative health care services and access to care).

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-4872

#### **Minority Health**

Serves as a liaison to and monitors the health status of Rhode Island's racial and ethnic minority communities. Develops an annual Minority Health Status Report and Minority Health Plan. Identifies local and federal funding opportunities for minority health program development. Staffs Director's Minority Health Advisory Committee.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2901

## **Worksite Health**

Administers Wellness Check<sup>2000</sup> a health risk appraisal designed and distributed by the Rhode Island Department of Health. Wellness Check<sup>2000</sup> is offered to employers in Rhode Island who want to effect lifestyle changes that lead to a safer and healthier workforce. This service is also offered to public and private school systems in the state. Works with the Worksite Wellness Council of RI, and the Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA), on a three-year worksite health promotion initiative, entitled "Well State".

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-5112

## **Legal Services**

### **Legal Services**

Provides legal services to the Director and staff of the Department, represents the Department at all administrative hearings, and assists in the preparation of the departmental legislative packet composed of changes in the General Laws.

Cannon Building, Room 404, 222-2137

## **Management Services**

Provides general management support to the Department of Health and consists of five units: Budget and Finance, Human Resources, Information Systems, and Vital Records.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Budget and Finance**

Oversees annual budget preparation and financial controls including monitoring, forecasting, analysis, and planning. Administers federal grants management including the draw down of federal funds and collection and processing of all revenue received by the Department.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Human Resources**

Coordinates human resource activities within the Department. Provides staff support to the various divisions and offices which comprise the Department of Health. Oversees personnel management, payroll, and labor relations.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2265

### **Information Systems**

Coordinates the planning and implementation of information processing systems in order to provide the Director of Health and other staff with data necessary for administrative decision making. Facilitates the use of computers within the Department to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

### **Purchasing and Support Services**

Provides services in three areas: Purchasing, Print Shop, and Buildings & Grounds. Purchasing is responsible for the overall management of all purchasing functions in the Department, including the review, approval, and processing of all contracts, purchase requisitions, payments, and related transactions. Purchasing also maintains a computerized billing system and paper files of transactions. The Print Shop provides a central printing facility and central mail room for the Department. Buildings and Grounds is responsible for coordinating all physical plant issues relating to the Cannon and Chapin Buildings including the maintenance of these buildings, the grounds, and security. Acts as the liaison with the Department of Administration regarding the upkeep of the two buildings.

Cannon Building, Room 402, 401-222-2228

## **Vital Records**

Responsible for maintaining the State's vital records system. Collects, analyzes and reports data pertaining to births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and other health-related statistics. Issues certified copies of vital records.

Cannon Building, Room 101, 401-222-2812

## **Division of Disease Prevention and Control (401) 222-1171**

Works to increase the span of healthy life for all Rhode Islanders by developing and advocating policies for prevention, by promoting healthy lifestyles and by improving access to effective primary care, by monitoring infectious disease rates, by preventing infectious diseases in the community, and by controlling outbreaks of infectious disease.

### **AIDS/HIV**

Sponsors anonymous and confidential HIV testing and counseling services at numerous area sites throughout the state. Provides partner counseling and referral services to area health care professionals. Provides funding for HIV health education, public information, and harm reduction to community based programs. Facilitates strategies that foster community involvement in prevention planning through the HIV Prevention Community Planning Group. Publishes an HIV Community Prevention Plan yearly. Conducts a variety of training, technical assistance, and leadership development workshops for prevention professionals through the REACH programs. Offers a harm reduction program to injecting drug users that includes syringe exchange. Works with other state agencies and community based organizations to assure that HIV prevention efforts reach high-risk populations. Monitors the incidence of disease and prevents its spread. *HIV/AIDS Updates* and *AIDS Morbidity Reports* are published several times a year.

Cannon Building, Room 106,  
401-222-2320, 401-222-2577

### **Communicable Diseases**

Responsible for the detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases. Monitors and conducts surveillance for the incidence of various reportable diseases, including meningitis, hepatitis, foodborne diseases, Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. Educates the public about these diseases and how to prevent them; increases access to clinical services for infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases. Administers the Rabies Control and controls disease outbreaks.

Cannon Building, Room 106, 401-222-2577

### **Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention**

Works with community partners to promote healthy lifestyles (such as good eating and exercise habits) and reduce health risk behaviors, including those related to unintentional injuries and violence. This approach is designed to prevent health problems before they occur, or to reduce their impact. Activities focus on school, community, and worksites and include media, policy, and program strategies. Information about programs is available on the HEALTH website. Programs include:

- Arthritis Program 401-222-1171
- Asthma Program 401-222-1171
- Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids! 401-222-3442  
(Comprehensive School Health Programs)
- SafeKids 401-222-4420
- Nutrition/Obesity Reduction 401-222-3442
- Osteoporosis Program 401-222-3442
- Physical Activity Promotion 401-222-3442
- Tobacco Control and Cessation 401-222-3293
- Violence Control (Violence Against Women) 401-222-4420

Cannon Building, Room 408 and 409,  
401-277-3442, 401-222-3293, 401-222-1171

## **Primary Care**

Works to improve the availability of high quality, culturally competent primary and preventive care for all Rhode Islanders. Emphasizes on vulnerable populations by addressing barriers to primary care, increasing the supply of primary care providers in the state (particularly in underserved areas), strengthening the link between state government, primary care training programs, the primary care community and other constituencies; and assessing primary medical care and dental care capacity statewide. Administers the State Loan Repayment Program, the National Health Services Corps' SEARCH Program (a primary care experience in underserved areas for health professionals in training), the Women's Cancer Screening Program, the State Cancer Registry, the Diabetes Program, and the Rural Health Program. Also works closely with the community-based health centers and other community-based programs to identify and address issues facing the medically underserved.

Cannon Building, Room 408, 401-222-1171

## **Division of Family Health (401) 222-2312**

Family Health strives to preserve, protect and promote the health and development of children and youth and their families with a goal of reducing and preventing diseases and disabilities. It develops and supports community based programs and systems of care that address the health and development needs for all children and their families. The Division evaluates the health and of children for purposes of policy and planning. The Division also invests in information, education, public engagement and community partnership development with a focus on prevention. Parent consultants are involved in all aspects of the Family Health activities.

Cannon Building, Room 302, 401-222-2312

### **Family Health Information Line**

The Family Health Information Line is a toll-free telephone information resource for families sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Health. English and Spanish speaking staff provide information about programs and services to improve the health of children and families. When appropriate, families are referred to community resources. The Information Line is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Calls received on evenings and weekends are returned on the next business day.

Cannon Building, Room 302, 401-222-2312

Family Health Information Line - 1-800-942-7434

### **Adolescent and Young Adult Health Unit**

Develops, leads and manages programs that address the health and development needs of school age youth and young adults. Monitors health status and assesses service and system needs of the population. Works collaboratively with state departments, local agencies and communities to assure access, quality and effectiveness of the State's programs focusing on preventive health for preadolescents and adolescents, reproductive health and responsibility, and the provision of health and social services and support to families and children at school.

Cannon Building, Room 302, 401-222-2312

Family Health Information Line - 1-800-942-7434

### **Children with Special Health Care Needs**

Administers and directs programs to address the needs of children who have or are at risk for significant chronic health and developmental problems. Programs include: Newborn Screening; Early Intervention and specialty programs for infants and toddlers with developmental challenges; Disability & Health, which promotes health and wellness for people with disabilities, including traumatic brain injury surveillance and systems development in genetics and for programs serving children and adults with disabilities. Offers a statewide family-centered initiative including training for parents and professionals as well as technical assistance and disseminates educational resources from the programs within the Office of Children with Special Health Care Needs.

Cannon Building, Room 302, 401-222-2312



### **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program**

Administers the WIC Program for pregnant, postpartum women and young children who have a nutritional risk and meet income guidelines. Services include assessment of nutritional status, provision of nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and assistance in securing referrals to other services. Collects and evaluates data and develops policies and strategies to address need and integrate services within the health care system. Assures access, quality, and effectiveness in WIC services.

Cannon Building, Room 303, 401-222-3940  
Family Health Information Line 1-800-942-7434

### **Children's Preventive Services**

Administers the Childhood Immunization Program, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the Family Outreach Program (Home Visiting), and KIDS NET. Assures services for all children in Rhode Island, including newborn developmental and metabolic screenings; links childhood program databases to each other and to health care providers (KIDS NET). Identifies children behind in preventive services and provides family support and follow up through community-based Risk Response and Home Visiting Networks, in collaboration with providers.

Cannon Building, Room 302, 401-222-2312

## **Environmental Health**

Protects and promotes environmental health for all Rhode Island residents.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3118

### **Bioterrorism Preparedness**

Coordinates the activities of multiple offices within the Department of Health to develop plans, prepare for, and react to acts of biological terrorism. Develops working relationships with communities, public and private organizations, and State and Federal partners, in order to prepare and execute these plans. Develop state-wide systems and improve the infrastructure so as to minimize the effect of a bioterrorist event. Utilize the same methodologies and generally deal with the same partners in order to plan for other public health emergencies.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3118

### **Drinking Water Quality**

Protects the public health by assuring that public drinking water supplies comply with the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Identifies and controls sources of contamination threatening the safety of public drinking water by an extensive monitoring and surveying program. Provides engineering review, the approval and on-site supervision of projects to improve public water system infrastructure through a state revolving loan fund. Ensures that public swimming pools are constructed and operated in a safe and sanitary manner. Ensures the safety of manufactured ice and bottled water. Monitors private wells located in the vicinity of hazardous waste sites, alerts homeowners of contamination levels found, and counsels and assists homeowners who have contaminated well water.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-6867

### **Environmental Health Risk Assessment**

Assesses the health risks of environmental and occupational hazards, contaminants, and exposures. Enhances the level of knowledge and the ability to identify and respond to patient concerns regarding these hazards among Rhode Island primary health care providers. Works with the public, local, state, federal officials and agencies, professionals, and the media to expedite information exchange, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication of environmental and occupational hazards.

Cannon Building, Room 209, 401-222-3424

## **Health Services Regulation (401) 222-6015**

Health Services Regulation licenses, certifies and enforces regulations relating to health care professionals, health care facilities, managed care organizations and health systems development. The Division is organized by responsibilities for licensure, oversight and regulatory functions by category of licensure.

- Health Professionals Regulation
- Facilities Regulation
- Managed Care Regulation
- Health Systems Development

Additionally, the Office of Regulations, a key support function for the entire Department, provides for the promulgation of regulations, and is located within Health Services Regulation.

Cannon Building, Room 410, 401-222-1600

### **Facilities Regulation**

The Office of Facilities Regulation is responsible for insuring that all state licensed and federally certified health care facilities or providers meet the applicable conditions and regulations of the law. That compliance is formally recognized through the licensure and certification process, which involves survey visits and other inspections for continuing compliance. Deficiencies cited during inspections, which are not corrected, may result in enforcement actions against the facility. Survey data is reported, compiled, and analyzed as required. Also, complaints from any source are investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate compliance action is initiated. In-service training is conducted for facility staff as needed. Facility plans (physical plant and programs) are analyzed for Certificate of Need purposes. New state laws, amendments, and regulations are drafted and promulgated as appropriate. All of the above survey and inspection activities involve on-site observations, record reviews and interviews.

Cannon Building, Room 306, 401-222-2566

Hotline for Home Health 1-800-228-2716

After Hours Emergency 401-272-5952

### **Health Professionals Regulation**

The Office of Health Professionals Regulation oversees the licensure, certification, registration and discipline of more than 70,000 individuals in 65 health occupations and 2,600 facilities. The office also oversees the administrative and regulatory functions of 35 licensing Boards comprising 325 members representing the various professions and consumers. Health Professionals Regulation includes the following Boards and programs:

**Athletic Trainers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Barbers, Hairdressers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2511**

**Chiropractors, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Clinical and Independent Social Workers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Clinical Laboratory Science Practitioners, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Dentistry, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2151**

**Dietitian/Nutritionist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Doctor of Acupuncture, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Electrologists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Emergency Medical Services, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-2401**

**Funeral Director/Embalmer, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Hearing Aid Dealers, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Interpreters for the Deaf, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Massage Therapist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Medical Licensure and Discipline, Cannon Building Room 205, 401-222-3855**

**Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapist,**

**Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Midwives, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

**Nursing Assistants, Cannon Building Room 105, 401 222-5888**

**Nursing Home Administrators, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-5888**

**Occupational Therapy, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Optometrists, Opticians, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Pharmacy, Cannon Building Room 205, 401-222-2837**  
**Physical Therapists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Physician Assistants, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Podiatrists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Registered and Practical Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Anesthetists, Cannon Building Room 105, 401-222-5700**  
**Prosthetist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Psychologists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Radiographer, Nuclear Medicine Technologist, Radiation Therapist, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Sanitarians, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Speech and Language Pathology, Audiology, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**  
**Tattoo Artists, Cannon Building Room 104, 401-222-2827**

### **Managed Care Regulation**

The Office of Managed Care Regulation is responsible for insuring that all certified Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), Utilization Review Agencies (UR) and Health Plans meet the conditions and regulations of the applicable Rhode Island General laws. Survey data is reported, compiled, and analyzed as required. Also, complaints from any source are investigated and, if substantiated, appropriate action is initiated. Staff conducts on-site surveys and inspections; administers certification processes and investigates complaints to determine that managed care organizations meet the conditions of state laws, rules, and regulations.

Cannon Building Room 410, 401-222-6015

### **Health Systems Development**

The Office of Health Systems Development administers the state's "certificate of need" (C.O.N.) program designed to prevent unnecessary duplication of expensive medical services and equipment. Reviews proposed hospital conversions (HCA), proposed changes in ownership of existing health care facilities (CEC), and requests for initial health facility licensure (IL). Staffs the state's Health Services Council and advises the Director of Health on all the above matters.

Cannon Building, Room 407, 401-222-2788

## **Division of Laboratories 401-222-5600**

### **Laboratories**

Microbiology Section - provides a broad spectrum of serological and microbiological analyses for the diagnosis and control of infectious diseases; provides microbiological analyses to ensure the wholesomeness of food and quality of water.

Chemistry Section - provides chemical and hematological analyses for metabolic diseases of the newborn, childhood lead poisoning, and hemoglobinopathies; provides physical and chemical analyses of foods to ensure their wholesomeness, purity and labeling; provides comprehensive laboratory services to support most of the air pollution, water pollution, and drinking water supply programs of the state.

Forensic Sciences Section - performs postmortem toxicological analysis for the Office of the State Medical Examiner, in cases of homicide, suicide, drug overdose, accidental death, etc.; examines evidence submitted by state and municipal law enforcement agencies in drug-related cases, sexual assault, and other violent crimes, driving under the influence, etc; and performs tests for the Department of Business Regulation.

Chapin Building, 401-222-5600

## Central Services Section

Provides automated data systems, specimen handling, specimen processing, data entry, purchasing, billing, clerical and telephone support to the laboratories.

Charles V. Chapin Laboratory Building, 401-222-5600  
50 Orms Street  
Providence, RI 0290

## **State Medical Examiner 401-222-5500**

Protects the citizens of Rhode Island by conducting medicolegal death investigations in cases of sudden, unexpected death in the community and death when injury is involved. The Medical Examiner determines the cause of death and the manner of death (homicide, suicide, accident, natural). The results are used to complete the death certificate, assist the criminal justice system, and identify public health hazards and dangerous practices. This information and data is also used to design programs and intervention methods aimed at preventing such deaths in the future. The Office maintains a 24-hour hotline utilized by law enforcement agencies and health care providers in the reporting of deaths to the Office.

Chapin Building, First Floor, 401-222-5500

## **Public Health Coalitions**

### **Tobacco Prevention and Control**

The Department of Health Tobacco Control program works to prevent tobacco use. The program also works with community groups to implement clean indoor air policies in workplaces, restaurants and other public places and to inform the public about the dangers of secondhand smoke. For more information contact Betty Harvey at 401-222-3293.

### **Rhode Island Prevention Coalition**

The Rhode Island Prevention Coalition, which includes the Department, HMO's health care providers and insurers, promotes healthy lifestyles. "Move It Your Way; Move It Anyway; Just Move It" is the theme for a statewide campaign to increase activity levels among Rhode Islanders. Contact Andrea Vastis at 401-222-1394 ext. 118.

### **Healthy Schools! Healthy Kids!**

The Department of Health partners with the Department of Education to develop and coordinate comprehensive school health programs to prevent important health problems and improve educational outcomes. Contact Beatriz Perez at (401) 222-1394 ext. 147.

### **Rhode Island Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program**

The Department of Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Control Program, in conjunction with the state's health care providers and health insurers, work to ensure that all Rhode Island children under six have been screened for lead poisoning in accordance with the state's existing universal screening law. For more information about lead poisoning and where parents can go for lead screening, contact the Family Health Information Line at

1-800-942-7434 or visit our website at [www.healthri.org](http://www.healthri.org).

### **The Rhode Island Prevention Coalition**

The Department joined with private partners, including HMO's, health care providers and insurers and non-profit agencies to form the RI Prevention Coalition. Its overall goal is to improve the health of Rhode Islanders; its current mission is to increase physical activity levels among sedentary Rhode Islanders.

"Move it your way, move it any way, just move it!" is the theme of the "Move it! Rhode Island" campaign, which has made grants to community agencies since 1997 to increase physical activity levels among various populations. The "Path to Health" program is a major initiative of the Coalition, with the goal of creating signed, mapped walking routes in all cities and towns in the state. For more information, contact Ann Kelsey Thacher, 222-1394, x148.